

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5632

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN CABINET MEETS, CONDEMNS SYRIA, LIBYA; REVIEWS
DOMESTIC POLICIES

1. FIVE HOUR GOE CABINET MEETING JULY 29 COVERED PRESENT
EGYPTIAN FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC CONCERNS IN "RESPONSE TO
PRESIDENT SADAT'S JULY 22 AND 26 NATIONAL DAY SPEECHES".
PRESS REPORTS SUGGEST MEETING WAS PRIMARILY PUBLIC
RELATIONS EFFORT.;

2. SYRIA. CABINET "CONDEMNS" SYRIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION
IN LEBANON AND DESIRES "DECISIVE SOLUTION" WITHIN FRAMEWORK
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OF ARAB LEAGUE. ALSO VOWED THAT EGYPT WILL OPPOSE

ANY ATTEMPTS TO UNDERMINE PALESTINIAN CAUSE. CABINET'S PRONOUNCEMENTS GIVEN BOOST BY FRONT PAGE AHRAH EDITORIAL BY CHIEF EDITOR HAMDI GAMAL, WHO CLAIMED SYRIAN BA'ATH PARTY HAS "LOST ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND ALONG WITH MOST OF ITS NERVE AND MIND." GAMAL FURTHER REMARKED THAT "INCAPACITY" HAS REACHED POINT

OF INSANITY IN "CERTAIN ARAB REGIMES". (COMMENT: CABINET "CONDEMNATION" OF SYRIA GIVES OFFICIAL SANCTION TO RENEWED PRESS CRITICISM OF SYRIA THAT FOLLOWED ASAD'S JULY 20 SPEECH.)

3. LIBYA. "IRRESPONSIBLE ACTS OF LIBYAN LEADERSHIP" AGAINST SUDAN ALSO CONDEMNED, THOUGH QADHAFI HIMSELF NOT MENTIONED BY CABINET. (COMMENT: EGYPTIANS FACING

QADHAFI'S THREAT TO SEVER RELATIONS SEPTEMBER 1 WITH EQUANIMITY).

4. DOMESTIC. LITTLE NEW HERE. CABINET PLEDGED TO CONTINUE FOOD PRICE SUBSIDIES FOR LOW INCOME GROUPS AND BOOST PRODUCTION OF FOOD AND BASIC COMMODITIES. MANPOWER PROBLEM ADDRESSED IN CABINET DECISION TO CONSIDER MODIFICATION OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM SO AS TO INSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF SKILLED AND TECHNICAL LABOR NOR DEVELOPMENT AND MANPOWER EXPORT PLANS. PHYSICAL NEEDS OF UNIVERSITIES ALSO TO BE CONSIDERED, "WITHIN LIMITATIONS OF BUDGET", ALONG WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF "ALL NECESSARY MEASURES FOR INDEPENDENCE OF UNIVERSITIES."

5. GULF DEVELOPMENT FUND. CABINET DECIDED TO CREATE AD HOC COMMITTEE HEADED BY MINSTATE AND CABINET AFFAIRS TO REFORM FINANCING PROVISIONS OF FUND AGREEMENT "IN SUCH A WAY AS TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE." (COMMENT: THIS IS APPARENTLY EFFORT TO HAVE FUND AGREE TO CONCENTRATE MAJORITY OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN FIRST HALF OF FIVE YEAR PLAN RATHER THAN IN EQUAL SLICES AS AGREEMENT SPECIFIES. EGYPTIANS CLEARLY DETERMINED TO KEEP THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESSURE ON THEIR OIL RICH BRETHREN, AS SADAT'S JULY 26 APPEAL FOR 10 TO 12 BILLION DOLLAR AND JULY 27 OFFICIAL REQUEST TO FUND'S CONTRIBUTORS FOR 1976 ONE BILLION DOLLAR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CONTRIBUTION BOTH INDICATE.) EILTS

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